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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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Fresh fighting has broken out in the western highland province of Pleiku. A number of government outposts near the district town of Thanh An southwest of the province capital have been hit during the past few days. The communist attacks are probably due, in part, to the recent replacement of Ranger units by a regiment of the South Vietnamese 23rd Division. The communists may fear this force will attempt to move westward toward their vast logistics complex at Duc Co. Five rockets were fired at Pleiku Airbase on December 1, but only one hit inside the fence and it caused no damage.

NSA, DIA reviews completed

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The government operation to retake strategic high ground positions south of Hue is making no appreciable progress. The Hue/Phu Bai Airbase was rocketed yesterday. A new operation has been approved to move into communist-held territory east of Route 1 in Quang Ngai Province to ease the threat to the vital highway and the South Vietnamese 2nd Division Headquarters near Chu Lai. The communists are expected to react vigorously if the government makes serious inroads, but past operations into this area have failed because of the 2nd Division's reluctance to enter this heavily mined area which also has a population almost totally sympathetic to the Viet Cong.